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Vo 8 March 2021

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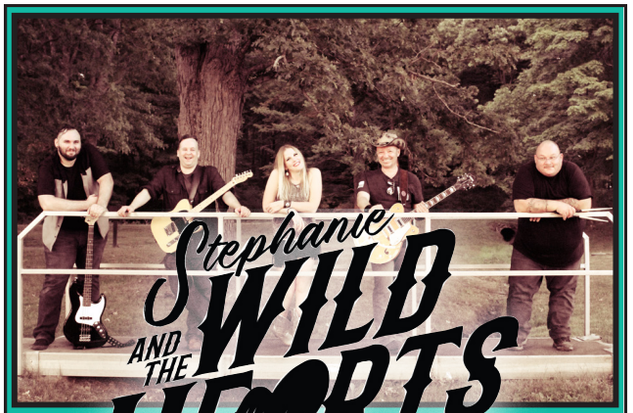

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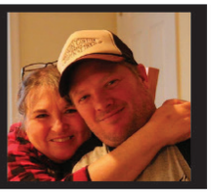
Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll



Hello PA Music lovers welcome to March. Its now been almost a year since the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world as we know it and changed our lives forever. It's hard to believe that the last pre-covid show I was at was Millennium Music Conference 24. The year has blown by and I think we can all kiss 2020's ass good bye and hope, that with the vaccines now becoming available, that we can soon return to our "normal" lives.

With this marking the 25th year of MMC John Harris and crew refused to let the pandemic stop the event and decided a virtual event is what would take place. I haven't done much zooming or virtual meetings in the last year, like most of us have, but I figured why not give it a go. I will admit that I was a bit scared at first but once I got started and learned the ropes it really wasn't that bad. The event platform chosen was "Hio". The trade show was made up of virtual tables and attendees bounced from table to table seeking info, advice, and networking with each other. It really was pretty cool, one minute you were talking to someone from NJ, the next minute you could be talking to someone from the Middle east. It really made the MMC a worldwide event. I met some great people and got to talk to some familiar faces as well. You could tell the people that were down with the "Zooming" most had multiple monitors and fancy headphones and mics. Ben Bollinger from Six Bar Break and Rachel Rocks quickly talked me into hooking up a double monitor setup. Which by the way is super easy, haha. So once I got that mastered, I was a multitasking fool. Who knows, maybe I'll go to 4 monitors like Brian Cronin. Speaking of Brian, a big shout out and thank you for helping Harris figure out the whole virtual trade show deal. While it didn't go off without a few hiccups they quickly overcame and adapted to the situation and made the event a success. Brian with "That Mag" and owner of "Mirror Image Media" is a faithful supporter of the MMC and the local music scene. Once again a big thank you to Brian and everyone else behind the scene that made the event happen.

Highlights of the 25th MMC for me, in no particular order, would be. Amanda Rose Riley, out of NJ, playing a song for Rachel, Jim, and I at our virtual table. When asked if she would like to play us a song she quickly agreed and although she was still in her PJ's she picked up her guitar and played us some great original music. You can check out her music for yourself at www.amandaroseriley.com.

I have to say if we are forced to do a virtual MMC again, that I will ask that we have a virtual open mic stage so bands can play us some funky music just like the real event. Other highlights from the virtual stages include; Casey Walton out of Lancaster PA, who played on Friday's Stage 2 showcase video, did a great job and after watching her performance we were lucky enough to have her stop by our table and chat for a few minutes. She is working on a new album and as most bands are dealing with delays due to covid, so is she. Casey has hopes of it being released later this year. Be sure to check her out on facebook @caseywaltonmusic. Great solo acoustic performer.

There were so many performers its impossible to mention them all. Madison Ryan, our January cover artist, has an amazing voice and although its not my style of music I really enjoyed her set and was blown away by her vocals. If I was into pop music, "Allie Had a Party" would be on repeat on my CD player.

Jackknife Stiletto, who was THE LAST pre pandemic band I saw from last years MMC, also did a great set. Their first video being very witty and focused on dealing with life as a band during the lockdown. It was great and very cute, just the girls in the band. You just can't beat 3 rocking ladies and they always look like they are having the time of their lives.

Six Bar Break, who plays at the end of the Saturday Stage 3 video, rocked out at a local Harley dealer and brought us some great original songs, "Straight and Narrow" and "She's The One". Six Bar Break have been releasing new singles each month and plan on doing so right through summer. So go check out the Six Bar Break facebook page and see what singles they have released already and stay tuned for more as the months roll on.

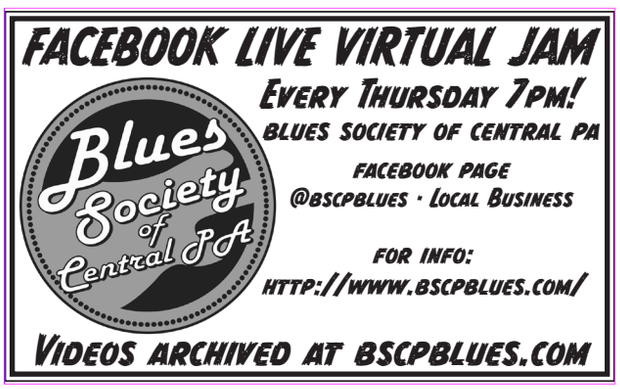
Stephanie and the Wild Hearts filmed three original songs. I haven't seen them with the new lineup and I must say that they were rocking. Led by the beautiful Stephanie and Bob Onkst (and yes I just said Bob is beautiful) the band really keeps things moving. The, If your looking for a band to get up and dance to, these are your cats. A great mix of covers and originals that will keep you shaking and singing the night away.

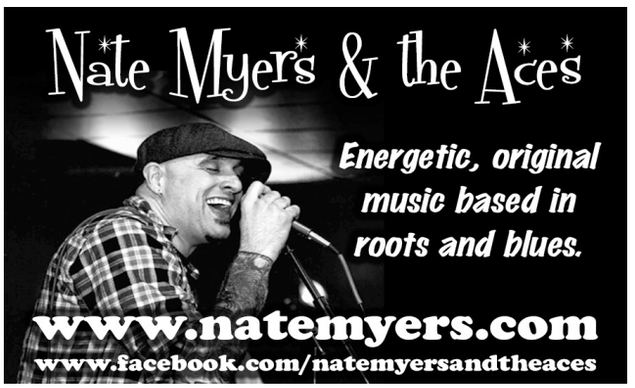
Of course there were tons of other great bands but some honorable mentions go out to Wildcat O' Halloran, awesome blues band with sax thrown into the mix, Bo Dean and the Poachers, a country Bluegrass band with harmonica and upright bass, Local boy Garret Schultz with his catchy tunes, Kim Logan, Blues/rock solo performer, and last but not least Buckskin Whiskey.

Buckskin Whiskey, our cover story feature for the month, have been working overtime in the studio and it shows. The video for the MMC features some of their new songs and is a must see. All the songs are great but my fav is the recently released single, "Roll On". If you give it a listen, I guarantee, you will be singing it all day. For the full story on Buckskin Whiskey go check out page 13.

In other music news the 2nd Annual Central PA Music Hall of Fame and Award ceremony has been once again postponed. Brandon the his crew are committed to having this event LIVE AND IN PERSON! The new date is now slated for Thursday July 1st. The following is an update from the CPMA's;

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Due to COVID restrictions, The 2nd Annual CPMAs & Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony





Ramblings continued...

(Sponsored by The Englewood) will be pushed out to Thursday, July 1st, 2021. With the inability to have a large indoor gathering (masks or not) still in place, this is a decision that had to be made. Additionally, bar sales are still not permitted without an accompanying meal—which the Whitaker Center is not able to accommodate. Lastly, and most importantly, this event has been rescheduled with the safety of all guests of the ceremony in mind. All inductees and sponsors have been informed of the new date. The inductees are still committed to performing live on stage. As previously stated, all ticket sales will still be honored. All remains the same—except the date. We are hopeful that restrictions can be lessened over the next 3+ months.

However, in the event that the ceremony needs to be pushed further, ticket sales will continue to be honored. Either way, we are committed to making our local music scene's BIGGEST NIGHT happen in person! See you this summer for one heck of a party!

That's it for this month be sure to tune in for the April issue to keep up to date on the areas happenings and to see who played where and who is playing next in your backyard. Peace out PA Music lovers and thank you for all the years of support and love we couldn't do it without you.

Contact me to find out how we can help each other promote the music throughout PA and beyond...joshnoll@pamusician.net. Text or call 717.636.4203.

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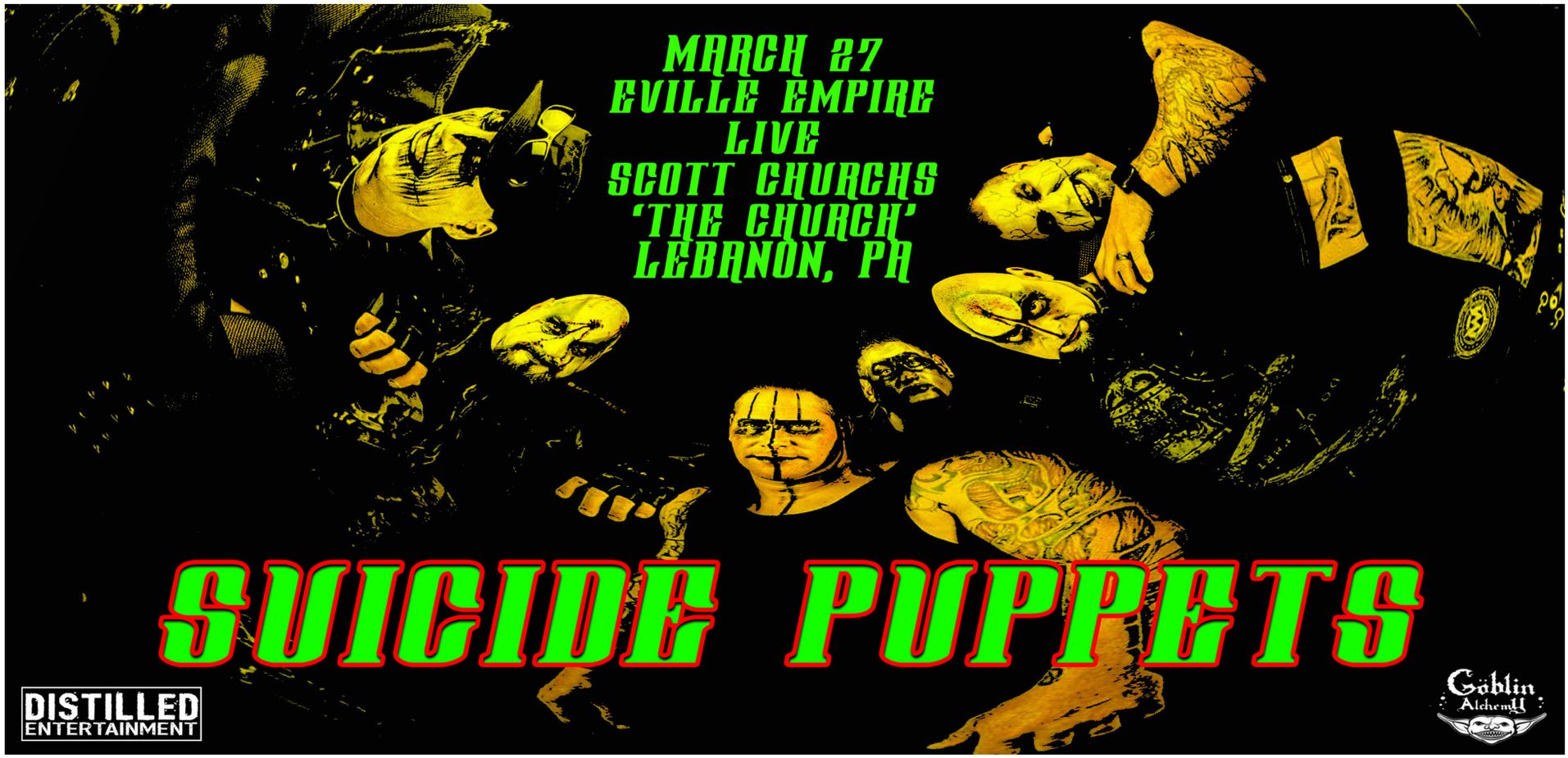
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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Writing my March article always puts a smile on my face. I think of Spring.. warmness, sunshine, green grass, and more live music! Although February did turn in to a pretty busy month for me. I managed to see some bands and dodged all of the little blasts of snow. I have to admit, the snow is pretty, but I definitely like to see it melt even more!

My coverage starts back on the 2nd Thursday in New Cumberland. If you've never been to New Cumberland there are quite a few unique little shops on the main strip of town, on the 2nd Thursday they have great sales, and sort of like an Open House type of event to come in browse the shops and have a good time. Moss Creek Art also hosts live music! This Thursday it started with Neil McClain I unfortunately missed his set, but I've heard him play some live clips on his Facebook page recently, so I'm bummed I missed his set. I did see two acts, Chuck Britton and Phil Cannizzaro. Both guys were so happy to be back out playing music, and we were very happy to hear them too! It was so awesome to see so many people out enjoying the music too. Moss Creek Art has amazing hand-crafted jewelry and furniture. Right next door is Tickle My Senses Gallery which also has an amazing

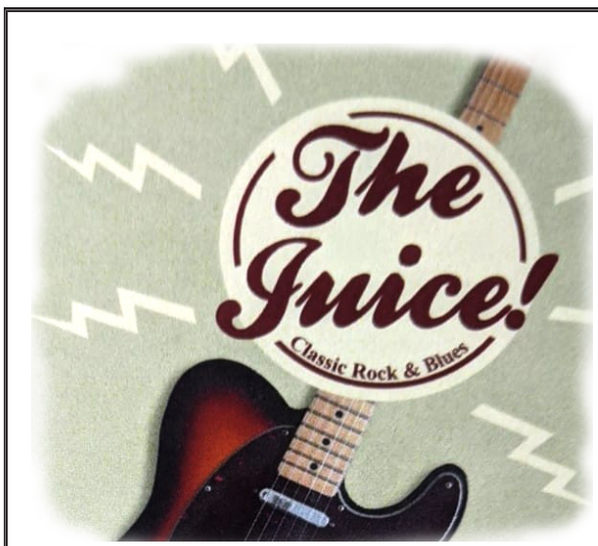
continued on next page...

Nineties Entertainment Systems

Ed & Ellie Varner at Buddy Boy

Derick & Darrin at Maxies

Chuck Britton at Moss Creek Art



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amount of locally crafted jewelry and all kinds of items. Plus of course Dead Lightning is also right there serving delicious beverages. It was definitely a much needed and most excellent night on the town.

Next up, I couldn't believe it, but it was a full band, Nineties Entertainment System, at the Racehorse Tavern. It was their first live show in over a year, and they nailed it! 90's music is my jam and every song they played had me and my friends singing and even dancing along! My friends loved them so much, they booked them for their wedding After Party. I know I'm looking forward to rockin' out to all of my 90s favorites again with the Nineties Entertainment System. I am so glad that the Racehorse has teamed up with Missy at Mad Hatter Entertainment and they are booking full shows again! The acoustic shows have been great, but it's just not the same as a full band.

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I'm happy to say that I finally crossed paths with Ed Varner again with his sidekick Ellie, his grand daughter, at Buddy Boy Winery. Ellie loves going out to her Grandpa's shows. She is pretty much just there watching the show, but for a few songs she gets up there and steals the show! Not only did she sing solo, but she also accompanied Pappy on the kazoo! It was so cute and awesome! Ed does a great job at interacting with the crowd. There was a birthday party group, so of course that always helps any night get a little extra rowdy, and Ed easily adapted his set list to keep the birthday girl happy. I can't believe that was my first trip to Buddy Boy Winery. They have some delicious beverages and delicious food too!

I really felt back to normal this night because after Ed Varner I went down to the Blue Sky Tavern to see Shrimp Ryan's Jig Band. 2 shows in one night! I can almost feel normalcy fighting

Phil Cannizzaro at Moss Creek Art

it's way back! It was the first time I saw the full Shrimp Ryan's Jig Band all together on stage. With the four of them playing such unique instruments: stand up bass, banjo, fiddle, and the guitar, they really have a great sound. It is more of jam band show, but it worked perfect in Blue Sky Tavern as some background music while everyone was sitting at their tables, eating, drinking and having a good time. The Blue Sky Tavern is in Etters, it is the old Field House, or the really old Klinger's building, I'm so glad they brought the building back to life and I'm really glad they are having live music.

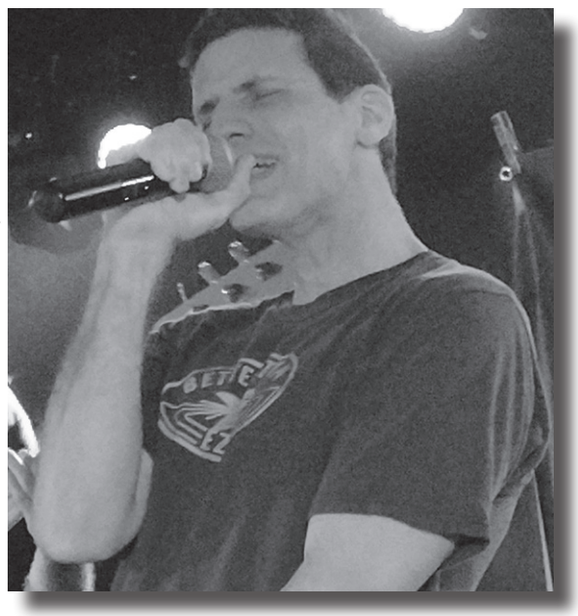
I had two opportunities to see Derek Henry this month. I saw him first at Maxie's Brew House in Shippensburg. Maxie's is a cool nano brewery with some delicious food and brews. At the Maxie's show we were able to celebrate that his brother Darrin made it home safely from a deployment overseas. It was awesome to see Derek and Darrin back on the stage together. Darrin was even able to play the Pixies for me! Thanks again for your service Darrin. We are all proud of all you do for us and the sacrifices you make. I also saw Derek at Devil's Eye Brewing Company in Dillsburg. It's awesome to see how Derek's fan base has grown. Derek has also been busy with his band Observe the 93rd. They recently released two new original songs, "Awareness of Death" and my favorite of the two "Mantra". I can't wait til OT93 gets to play as a full band again!

Another big event this month was the 25th Annual Millennium Music Conference. It was all done virtually, but it was still an awesome conference with panels and showcase virtual shows, and even a virtual trade show. For the trade show we used a platform called Hio, it was pretty cool because since it was all virtual people from all over the world got an opportunity to join in the fun from the safety of their own homes. When people stopped by our booth it instantly put us all in a live video chat and gave you the opportunity to meet each other. We actually had one live performance at our table from Amanda Rose Riley, a singer/songwriter from NJ. Amanda is waiting impatiently for all of this covidness to go away, but when it clears up, she is looking forward to expanding her playing area into PA, so keep an eye out for her. The MMC has their own YouTube channel where you can still see most of the music showcases and even some of the panels. The panels were very informative and because of everything being shutdown they were able to get some cool and very talented people to speak that they haven't been able to get before. Congrats to John Harris for reaching 25 years of bringing music education and talent to Harrisburg, so we can all network, learn, and grow. You can check out their website, www.musicconference.net for a list of the panels and performers.

For a little side note, two of our local singer songwriters, Devon Beck and Madison Ryan both have songs that have made it into the International Songwriting Competition's Semi Finals! Devon Beck's song "One Sided Expectations" and Madison Ryan's "Avant Garden". There were over 26,000 entries and so far they are both in the top 9%. Good luck ladies!!! Both songs are amazing, and we wish you both the best of luck!

Also, some big news is the Central PA Music Awards have been pushed back to July 1st. Due to all of the Covid restrictions it was too impossible to have 800 people in the Whitaker Center. They are hoping we can have an actual event! It was an amazing party last year, and I hope we can all get together to celebrate the awesomeness of Central PA Music!

Well that's all for this month. Keep your eyes out for more details on Dad's Celebration of Life on June 19th. Make sure and Save the Date! We are going to throw one heck of a party and it is Open to the Public. I'm looking forward to celebrating Dad's life with all of our friends and family. Hopefully I will see you all Out and About even more as things start warming up and opening up!! When you see me Out and About please stop me and say Hi! Do you have any news or exciting shows coming up, let me know at RachelRocks@pamusician.net. Get out there and Support Local Music and Small Businesses!!



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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! The live music scene remains quiet with the ongoing pandemic but fortunately online live streams help fill that void. Noteworthy locals including The Sharks and Jeffrey Gaines continue to put on almost weekly broadcasts. This past month Jet Silver played an impressive live stream on Jan 30 from Metropolis in Mechanicsburg. The Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame has sponsored the live feed for many local artists including; Bret Alexander of The Badlees, Shea Quinn's The Band That Sold The World, Jeffrey Gaines and The Sharks. Note: The CPMHOF induction show has been moved from March 25 to a new date of July 1. The York State Fair released their tentative music line-up for 2021. July 23 - Sam Hunt. July 24 - REO Speedwagon & Styx. July 25 - Pitbull. July 26 - Kane Brown. July 27 - Skid Row & Warrant. July 28 - Get The Led Out. July 29 - Casting Crowns. July 30 - Halestorm. July 31 - Blippi the Musical.

Jay-Z, Foo Fighters, Tina Turner and Iron Maiden lead this year's nominees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a female-heavy list of 16 acts that includes for the first time The Go-Go's, Mary J. Blige and Dionne Warwick. Artists are eligible for a nomination 25 years after the release of their first official recording. Turner would be inducted for a second time, having gone to the hall as part of Ike & Tina Turner in 1991. Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl is already in the hall as a member of Nirvana. Other nominees this year include: Kate Bush, Devo, Chaka Khan, LL Cool J, New York Dolls, Rage Against the Machine and Todd Rundgren. LL Cool J is on his sixth nomination and Chaka Khan is on her third solo nomination. The class of 2021 will be announced in May.

In the first world tour announced for 2022 and surely the biggest arena tour announced since the coronavirus pandemic began, The Weeknd will embark on a 104-date tour that includes multiple nights in major markets, stops in tertiary markets, and a full run of the UK and continental Europe. The tour kicks off on January 14th in Vancouver and wraps November 16th in London at The O2. The worldwide tour was announced days before the multi-platinum singer's headlining Super Bowl performance. The Weeknd released The Highlights on February 5th, described as not a "Greatest Hits" album but providing a new listener a sample of some of the artist's best work. His 2017 "Starboy: Legend Of The Fall Tour" came in at No. 16 on Pollstar's Year End Top 100 Worldwide Tours that year, with $80 million grossed on 76 shows. The Weeknd visits Pittsburgh PPG Paints Arena January 29th, Washington DC Capitol One Arena February 13th and Philadelphia Wells Fargo Center April 3rd.

Rocker Marilyn Manson was dropped by his record label after actor Evan Rachel Wood accused her ex-fiancé of sexual and other physical abuse, alleging she was "manipulated into submission" during their relationship. Manson called the allegations "horrible distortions of reality." Wood had spoken frequently in recent years about being abused in a relationship but did not name the person until she posted on Instagram. "The name of my abuser is Brian Warner, also known to the world as Marilyn Manson," Wood said. "He started grooming me when I was a teenager and horrifically abused me for years." Wood and Manson's relationship became public in 2007 when he was 38 and she was 19, and they were briefly engaged in 2010 before breaking up. Manson responded "Obviously my art and life have long been magnets for controversy, but these recent claims about me are horrible distortions of reality," he said. "My intimate relationships have always been entirely consensual with like-minded partners. Regardless of how — and why — others are now choosing to misrepresent the past, that is the truth." Manson's label, Loma Vista Recordings, said in a statement that after the "disturbing allegations," it will "cease to further promote his current album" and has "also decided not to work with Marilyn Manson on any future projects."

The Flaming Lips have announced 4 more of their "Space Bubble Concerts" in the band's hometown of Oklahoma City, Okla - March 11, 12, 13, 14. The Lips debuted its first COVID-safe Bubble Concerts January 23rd-24th at the 3,500 capacity Criterion, featuring a reduced capacity audience of 100 fans in hamster ball-like bubbles, following a trial run in October and a June 11th Bubble Concert appearance on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." Each bubble has a capacity for up to three people and the tickets are sold as such."You get in the bubble when it's deflated. And then we blow the womb up, and you're in there," said Flaming Lips manager Scott Booker, "We put a couple bottles of water in there and a towel in case it gets too hot and sweaty. You can wipe it off. We felt like the sound wasn't great, so we've set up an FM transmitter. So we've got these little extra speakers that people are going to be given, too, and carrying around their neck. But we add some high end into the bubble. It's plenty loud in there. It's like a regular show." Frontman Wayne

continued on next page…

Nationals continued...

Coyne has been crowd surfing over fans in his own bubble for more than 15 years. Coyne first showed off his signature space bubble during the Lips' 2004 appearance at Coachella.

Ozzy Osbourne recently received the first installment of the COVID-19 vaccine and stated, "As soon as I got it, I felt relieved. It felt like I was being stabbed. My arm was hurting the next day, but I'm glad I got it." The 72-year-old legend had various issues that forced him to postpone tour dates back in 2019. He went public with his Parkinson's diagnosis in January 2020 and also underwent spinal surgery This past December, Ozzy's wife, Sharon Osbourne, tested positive for the coronavirus and recuperated separately from Ozzy in order to keep him safe. Ozzy Osbourne released a new album 'Ordinary Man' in February 2020.

Electronic dance duo, Daft Punk, revealed they were disbanding on February, 22nd. Despite going more than seven years without releasing an album, the Daft Punk catalog has been a consistent performer over the last four years, averaging around 317,000 albums units a year bringing $6.4 million in revenue. The group's final concert on December 22nd, 2017 in Australia grossed $2.8 million attracting 30,736 fans.

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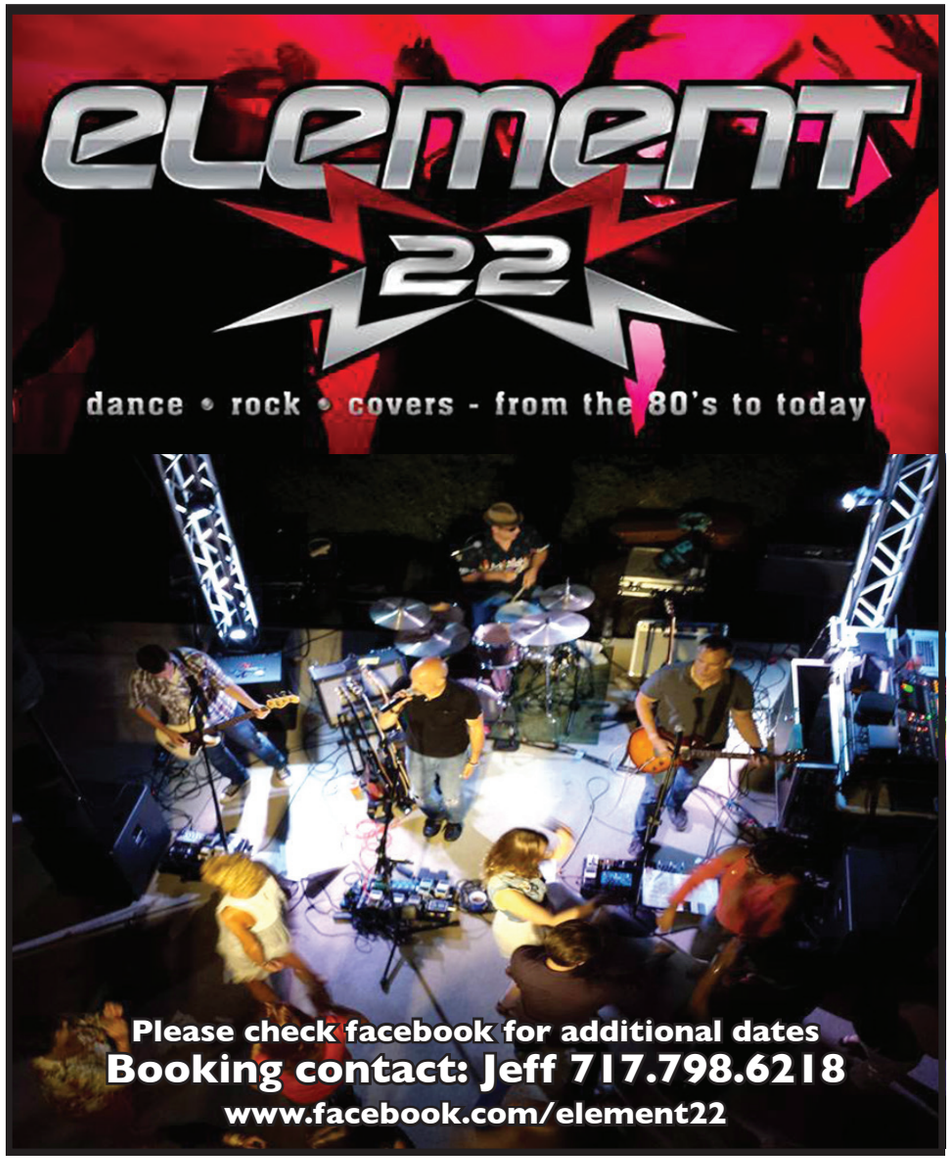
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BUCKSKIN WHISKEY: DISTILLED TO PERFECTION & READY TO ROLL ON DOWN THE LINE

Article by Rachel Rocks
Photo by Chris Rider Photography

Distilled from south Central Pennsylvania, Buckskin Whiskey plays a great combination of Southern Rock and Outlaw Country. The band was formed when singer/guitarist Josh Saussaman reunited with his childhood friend Bryan Sentz (bass) and drummer Dan Almoney in 2019. After several successful appearances, guitarist and steel player Koedee Gordon was brought in to add yet another dimension to the group's evolving sound. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Buckskin Whiskey found themselves without a lead guitarist. The group was fortunate enough to add Zach Beers, formerly of high profile bands Smokin' Gunnz and Fast Lane as their new full time lead guitarist. Zach was able to bring a lot of insight to the band with his former experience, especially after playing with Smokin Gunnz. Their newest member, Alex Cassel, was originally hired for some studio work when they were working on their EP, when the band heard him playing in studio, they immediately knew he needed to be a permanent fixture in the band.

Through the quarantine and shut downs in the first half of 2020, the group continued to communicate and put together over 3 hours worth of material. They currently are playing a majority of covers with a few originals mixed in. They are happily creating more original music and fine tuning the songs they do have on their set list, but their ultimate goal is to have more original music and less covers. As restrictions eased the group made their public debut for a sold-out camp ground at Steel Steeds Motorcycle Camp in Central PA. That show was followed by other successful appearances throughout the summer, including the 20th Anniversary of the Kettle Creek Music Festival in Renovo, PA, where they had a helicopter land right behind them while they were playing "Call Me the Breeze" on stage, a surreal "rockstar" moment for sure.

Buckskin Whiskey didn't let the pandemic slow them down, they knew they had to 'Roll On' with their ideas, and they started writing original music. Josh and Zach are the main lyric writers, but it is a band wide collaboration on every song. Each person writes their own parts, and eventually a song is made. With amazing technology it is easy to work on a song collaboratively, even when you can't actually be together. On January 8, 2021 they released their debut single, "Roll On". They didn't mess around on "Roll On" and they pulled out all of their tricks, even having a different lead singer on each verse. It helps you realize quickly their depth as a band. They also have the soaring guitar solos, with 2 guitarists and now with Alex, 4 singers, keys, slide steel, acoustic guitar, drums, bass, etc.. the sky is the limit. They have done all of their recording with Logan Summey at Rock Mill Studios. Their debut EP, "Roll On" is almost completely ready to go, and will be released on 4/20/2021. So far, I've only heard 3 out of the 5 songs, and the diversity of every song definitely keeps my interest piqued and I can't wait to hear the whole thing finalized in all of its glory! The EP will be available on all major digital platforms, and they will also have hard copies for sale along with some special merch.

On April 22nd they will be grabbing their EP and hitting the road on a little mini tour, eventually winding up down at the MAM Concert Series Showcase in Alachua, Florida. They also have a few local shows booked throughout the area. You can check out their website, www.buckskinwhiskey.com for their full schedule. Buckskin Whiskey understands that in order to be successful it really needs to be 80% Marketing and 20% Playing. When you do get to play though, no matter what you always have to play at 110%! If you go to their website or their Facebook page you will see they've already done quite a few special radio show broadcasts. In April they will even be on Jim Price's Homegrown Rocker show. If you would like to get Buckskin Whiskey scheduled at your venue or for your special event, please give Steve a call at 717-829-6464 or email steve@shenanigator-entertainment.com.

All 6 members of Buckskin Whiskey are so happy to be in a band that all works together so smoothly, and they all have the same goals in mind. When going for a goal it really helps to have everyone on the same page and all lines of communication open. They are also very grateful for all of their family and friends that have helped them achieve their musical dreams. Obviously, these guys are very dedicated to their music, and it helps to know your family is right there supporting you along the way. Even though Buckskin Whiskey is a new band, they've already been getting plenty of attention. They were nominated for a CPMA (Central PA Music Award) for the Best New Band of 2020, the awards show has been pushed back to July 1st, 2020. They've also had quite a bit of airtime for their debut release of "Roll On". The guys are very grateful to Slick Willy on slickwillyradio.com, and www.rockingthevalley.com for the airtime. They are only just getting started, but the boys of Buckskin Whiskey are ready to roll on throughout the state, across the country and beyond. Make sure and check them out at www.buckskinwhiskey.com or at Facebook.com/buckskinwhiskey.

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

Here we are, almost to Spring...and it's been quite a winter. Between the ongoing restrictions, some crazy weather, selling a house and buying a new one, it's been a bit tough for me to get out much lately. The music I'll discuss in this month's article took place over the last few months since my last article when I was able to break free for a few hours at a time. Hopefully we'll see the restrictions start to loosen up in the near future and be able to have more live music...but it's important to note that there IS live music happening all over the place yet. It may not always be as big, or as often, but it's out there if you look. While I miss shooting bigger shows and really can't wait til they come back... there's something special about the smaller (often solo acoustic) shows that I love just as much, but maybe in a different way. They're more close...intimate...there's often more interaction I think between the artists and the crowd and there's really something to be said for that. With very little exception, I've been able to interact with each of these artists before or after the show to get to know them a little more than I would get to at "larger" shows.

The first show I attended was up at Iron Vines Winery to see Kenny Jenkins play a few hours of acoustic covers ranging from Jimi Hendrix, Neil Young and BB King to Prince and Steppenwolf. Kenny has a long history of entertaining music fans all across the country for many years with a number of bands, and even has a Grammy Award to his name. Kenny brings both skill, and a love for just playing for people to every song he plays and is definitely an act worth catching if you get the chance.

Next up was Zach King & Friends at the Market Cross Pub in Carlisle. Zach and I'd been talking through Facebook for a while about me catching a show, and I was finally able to make this one work. Zach started out the show solo with a mix of campfire and country tunes. He was joined by Lindsay Hutchinson for a song or two. Jan Nawa played a few songs next, describing his style as "totally Baroque, a classic and deep country style"

with a mix of covers and originals. Virginia Masland followed with a mix of folk and country covers as well as some original pieces. Noah Fowler also came up on stage with his folk/country melodies with a strikingly "happy" theme among them. It was a great night of music...the food and beer were pretty tasty as well, making the Market Cross Pub a place to be checked out!

My next trek out was to Sherman's Creek Inn to see Shine Through The Shade. Kevin and Andy have played together for years with this acoustic duo being their most recent project. These guys played a wide variety of covers including STP, Green Day, Poison, Violent Femmes, Deftones and a whole slew of others. They brought their own style to each and every song (including a kazoo in one case LOL) that the crowd loved. These guys

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play a lot of shows, and frequently at Sherman's Creek Inn, so do yourself a favor and check them out!

I caught Rapid Run up at Iron Vines Winery next. Rapid Run is an acoustic classic rock trio consisting of Sue Stover on vocals and percussion, Joel Stover on guitar and vocals, and Brian Feltman on guitar and vocals. They've known each other, and played music occasionally together, for over 30 years prior to forming their band together. They focus on tight three-part harmonies focusing on feel-good songs from the 70's and 80's and encourage crowd participation as well. Rapid Run was a lot of fun to listen to, and they've got a great following judging from how they packed Iron Vines to their current limits with ease.

Next up was a gentleman (he may scoff at being called that LOL) that I'd first met one of my nights up at Que Brew. We talked quite a bit about music, the local music scene and how it's been affected by current events, etc...and he encouraged me to come out and see one of his shows. My son and I finally made it up to McGuigan's Public House in Sunbury to see him play. I'll start out by saying that McGuigan's is a very cool place...they've got a beautiful menu and beer list, and very friendly staff. Brandon is a one man electric piano act that puts a very eclectic spin on some awesome covers from ZZ Top, Sublime, Billy Joel (of course!), Queen and a bunch of others. Brandon put on a great act, entertaining a full house (well, as full of a house as you can get these days) many of whom seem to follow him from show to

show. My boy & I had a great time, with David talking about it much of the ride home which is really saying something. I look forward to seeing Brandon play again in the future.

The last show I caught (last night actually) was a last minute decision for me, but I couldn't pass up seeing Ann Kerstetter play up at Iron Vines Winery (if you're paying attention...John has made me a bit of a fan of the place LOL). I was expecting to just see Ann play with Brian as their duo act, but they brought along Brian's son Tyler as well. It's not hard to see where Tyler's talent comes from and I gotta say...seeing father and son play together like this was an awesome experience. The trio covered a whole mix of songs from CCR, Roy Orbison, Linda Rondstadt,

Ann Kerstetter

Billy Joel, as well as a few of Ann's favorites from The Beatles. Tyler led his father in a cover of the GooGoo Dolls' "Name" that was...amazing. Tyler plays with an ease and skill that belies his age and I hope to catch him playing again in the future as well.

So, there it is...my last few months, at least music-wise, in a bit of a nutshell through my ears and eyes. Some of it was new to me, some of it familiar...but all of it was a great release from reality for a few hours at a time. Now that things in real life are settling down a bit (relatively of course), I expect I'll be able to get out much more frequently over the next month to get my music fix. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see, make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

With spring's arrival this month springs the hope of light on the horizon, and the beginning of the end of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Arriving warmer temperatures will open the outdoors for live music events to increase, and ongoing restrictions on indoor live music venues will hopefully be lifted as conditions continue to improve. Several festival, fair and concert organizers have already announced plans for later in the year, and many observers are pointing toward later summer and fall for things to return to some semblance of normalcy.

While adhering to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, McGarvey's in Altoona has been able to resume some live music in recent weeks; including the return of New York City-based Tool tribute group Schism last month. Radio job duties prevented me from seeing area Alice In Chains tribute Deny Your Maker open the show, but eyewitness accounts said that their performance went well. I arrived early into Schism's set, and witnessed as the cast of singer Angelo Rivera, guitarist Keith Williams, bassist Michael Shaw and drummer Donald Pusateri brought the full fury and technical prowess of a Tool performance. Schism mixed Tool classics with material off the group's latest album, 2019's "Fear Inoculum." Schism roused the audience with established Tool favorites such as the set-opener "Stinkfist," "Aenima," "Schism," "Prison Sex," "Forty Six and 2," "The Pot" and "Sober." They also did several of the lengthier exercises off the new album such as "Pneuma," "7empest," the title track "Fear Inoculum" and "Invincible." A repeat highlight from their first visit to McGarvey's in 2019, Schism welcomed fan guest guitarist Kayla on stage to display her six-string skills on renditions of "Vicarious" and "Lateralus." When the audience called for the encore, Schism finished the show with an early Tool number, "Jerk-Off." Once again, Schism demonstrated amazing skill and brash firepower as they tackled Tool's complex dynamics, arrangements, instrumental tenacity and lyrical cadences. They brought feverish responses from the audience, and left many lower jaws dangling toward the floor in amazement.

McGarvey's also hosted last month's two-band "F**k Cancer Benefit" in memory of area musician Alec McCracken. (Alec, who most recently played bass with Clearfield metalcore rockers Deadside, passed away in late December at age 36 after battling cancer. Proceeds from this night's show went to his family.) Kicking off the night were Baltimore area-based metal rockers Offensive. Guitarist and singer Leon Sohail, guitarists Chris Coleman-bey and Blake Shannon, singer Darrick Sword, bassist Eric Van Valkenburgh and drummer David Cherry brought the firepower as they mixed their own power/thrash metal original songs with hard-hitting classics. An instrumental prelude led into a classic metal volley, as Offensive roared to life with Iron Maiden's "Wrathchild," Black Sabbath's "N.I.B.," and the Metallica double-dose of "Seek and Destroy" and "Four Horsemen." The group did several of their original songs, including numbers off their latest CD "Inhabitants of Purgatory" such as "King of the Underworld" and "Tales of A Fallen," plus "Blind Ambition" and a few more. They also did versions of The Misfits' "Dig Up Her Bones," Metallica's "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Judas Priest's "Breakin' the Law," Black Sabbath's "Paranoid" and others. Offensive's execution was powerful and tight, and their triple-guitar threat delivered heated solos and strong guitar harmonies. Next was my first look at San Francisco Sex Toys...From the distant easterly Bay Area suburb of Brockway, PA, San Francisco Sex

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The Professor continued...

Toys – singer and guitarist Johnny Dressler, lead guitarist Vilhelm Skalickalottapuss, bassist Freddie Fist and drummer Stereo Shredrock – introduced a hard-hitting sound with an all-original set that mixed rock, punk, grunge, metal and stoner rock elements. Their tunes varied between faster and slower assaults. I didn't catch many of their song titles, but two of their tunes were "Monster of Your Dreams" and "Ready to Go." I liked San Francisco Sex Toys' stripped-down, bare-bones style and their overall enthusiasm as they threw caution to the wind and brought the noise. This was a good night of live rock in celebration of Alec McCracken; turnout was decent, and some money was raised toward Alec's family.

Maybe it's because I finally watched the movie "Groundhog Day" for my first time ever last month…But I experienced a similar sense of déjà vu in recent weeks, as I kept running across Dave "Redawg" Solinski and Rick Ramsey in different band situations, all at McGarvey's. Rick and Redawg were two-thirds of Disorganized Crime when they visited in January. Living up to the 'disorganized' part of their name, Rick on lead vocals and guitar, Redawg on bass and Ed Hofer on percussion did a free-wheeling, unpredictable variety of song material this night – mixing up everything from Tool's "Schism" to The Toyes' "Smoke Two Joints," to songs from Stone Temple Pilots, Grateful Dead, Pearl Jam, Rage Against the Machine and more. But while the song list was haphazard, their performance was punchy, enthusiastic and fun.

Rick and Redawg also were two-thirds of a new collaboration with drummer Ben Frick called RRBBRR (pronounced like 'rubber'), who opened for Downshift at McGarvey's last month. RRBBRR also mixed up a wide variety of tunes, pulling out versions of The Doors' "LA Woman," Pearl Jam's "Alive," a funky read of Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth," Rage Against the Machine's "Bullet in the Head," Grateful Dead's "Scarlet Begonias" and more. Rick was fearless up front, sinking his full intensity and mood into each tune. Playing their first show in many months, Downshift was clearly excited to bring their brand of hard-driving rock back to the stage. Launching with a version of Ghost's "Square Hammer," singer Travis Dick, guitarists Rob Lynn and Jordan Ferraro, bassist Josh Michael and drummer Randy Wilson churned out two sets of high-octane rock and roll that kept the audience fired up. Downshift shifted through numbers from Foo Fighters, Smashing Pumpkins, Buckcherry, Nirvana, Tom Petty, Billy Idol, Alice In Chains, Ozzy Osbourne, Kenny Wayne Shepherd and more. These guys were in good form; Travis' vocals capably handled all song duties set in front of him, Rob and Jordan executed meaty guitar riffs and searing solos, and Josh rumbled his steady bass lines along Randy's commanding beats. Along the way, Rick Ramsey helped with lead vocals on Downshift's rocked-up version of Paula Abdul's "Straight Up" and Poison's "Talk Dirty to Me," and Downshift slammed the lid on their hearty performance with the Metallica medley of "Enter Sandman," "King Nothing" and "Am I Evil."

And Redawg was in a third band I saw recently, The JC3, as they brought their good-time performance to McGarvey's in late January, capping a live band double-bill. I only got to catch the last couple of songs from the first band, Johnstown's Van Waylon, but what I heard sounded great, especially their powerful spin on "With a Little Help From My Friends," which had the audience loudly cheering their approval. The JC3 – guitarist and singer "JC" John Charney, Mike Davis on drums and vocals, and Redawg on bass and vocals – soon picked up the ball and ran with it. John led off by playing a verse of Tracy Chapman's "Give Me One Reason" on guitar, before the full band fired into the song. From there, The JC3 played a wide mixture of sounds and made them all sound good. Bob Marley's "Get Up Stand Up," Stone Temple Pilots' "Plush," Motley Crue's "Home Sweet Home," Dire Straits' "Sultans of Swing," Van Halen's "Dance the Night Away" and Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" were among the songs the group brought to life this night. Highlights were frequent, from the extended jam excursion on Steve Miller Band's "Fly Like an Eagle" to a punchy read of "Got My Mojo Workin'" to the Mike-sung edition of Kiss' "Strutter" to the encore finale, as the group ended the night with Prince's "Purple Rain." It's always a pleasure to witness John work his guitar strings; blending technique, soul and emotion to make his instrument sing gloriously through the entire two sets. Breaking out the drum kit from his Hi-Tyde days, Mike's drum work was steady and powerful, and Red provided busy work on the bass strings to keep everything sounding full and action-packed. The JC3 connected well with the McGarvey's audience, and will return to McGarvey's on May 8.

Providing the silver lining on a Saturday evening last

continued on next page

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month when roads and sidewalks were a bit icy, Rick Wertz and Michelle Saad Barnes – The Silver Linings – brought their acoustic blend to McGarvey's. I arrived in time to catch their final set. Rick stepped onstage first to start off with a few solo tunes; among them Crosby Stills Nash & Young's "Wooden Ships" and Garth Brooks' "The Dance." Michelle then joined in, and the pair performed their distinctive takes on Blind Melon's "No Rain," Nickel Creek's "Reasons Why" and more. Rick added another solo number later with his mild acoustic spin on Foo Fighters' "Times Like These," before the duo finished with one more song. I enjoyed what I heard – both Rick and Michelle worked well together, their voices blended nicely, and their renditions of various favorites and even a few songs I didn't recognize all sounded good, fresh and consistent. The Silver Linings provided musical warmth on this icy night, and I look forward to seeing them again.

Young and rising Altoona-based quintet Hot Fudge Mondaes headlined a triple-bill at McGarvey's last month. Sets from Jack Pilch and Dr. Chance Bartleby & the ? opened the evening, before Hot Fudge Mondaes – singer Jacob Mowery, guitarists Breydon Bremer and Anthony Del Biondo, bassist Kevin Neely and drummer Christian Wesner – roused the crowd with their blend of original numbers and select covers. The group mixed elements of punk, grunge and indie-rock flavors into their original songs, which this night included "So Far From Fine" and several others. The group also broke out a few covers, including Nirvana's "In Bloom," Poison's "Talk Dirty to Me" and – going shirtless – closed the night with Rage Against the Machine's "Killing in the Name." Hot Fudge Mondaes brought the enthusiasm, with Jacob constantly moving and going all out to engage the crowd. Hot Fudge Mondaes delivered a fun set, and they return to McGarvey's on April 16.

I journeyed to Bedford in late January to catch my first look at Letters From Tomorrow as they performed at Bella Terra Vineyard (formerly Briar Valley Winery). This group features some familiar names from the Bedford music scene – Heidi Showalter on lead vocals, Don Showalter on guitar, Ron Showalter on drums and Artie Burtnett on bass. Together they mixed up a nice variety of acoustic-geared rock, pop, country and blues favorites, with a few surprises thrown in. Letters From Tomorrow kept the wine-sipping audience happy with tunes from Robert Palmer, Fleetwood Mac, Miranda Lambert, Stray Cats, Allman Brothers, Pretenders, GoGos, Cranberries, The Knack, The Bangles and more. Some of the highlights and surprises included takes on "Sweet Home Chicago" and Kiss' "Hard Luck Woman," Heidi's soaring voice on the Allmans' "Soulshine," Ron singing lead on Jim Croce's "You Don't Mess Around with Jim," Artie fronting the group on the Doobie Brothers' "Long Train Running," and the big surprise for me – the group pulling out and nailing UFO's "Doctor, Doctor!" Letters From Tomorrow was on the mark both vocally and instrumentally, and kept it fun for the onlookers throughout the show.

Bill Ferrell brought his acoustic sounds to Oak Spring Winery in Altoona during the winery's "Friday Wine Down" last month. With a supportive audience in the house, Bill mixed up a variety of classic rock, folk and country favorites with a few instrumental workings along the way. In his own distinctive acoustic style, Bill presented numbers from Johnny Cash, Bob Seger, CCR, Little Feat, Pink Floyd, Eric Clapton, Neil Young, Chris Stapleton, John Denver, The Band, Crosby Stills & Nash and more. He showcased his acoustic guitar talents with versions of John Williams' "Cavatina" (from the film "The Deer Hunter"), the latter half of Derek & the Dominoes' "Layla," and one or two other instrumental numbers. And he pulled out a few pleasant surprises, such as his acoustic takes on Bruce Springsteen's "Rosalita,' "Hurricane" (performed by Levon Helm), Leonard Cohen's "Hallalujah" and the audience-rousing version of John Denver's "Take Me Home Country Roads." It's always a pleasure to witness Bill working his guitar strings, and his voice was in good form as well. Watch for Bill's return here, as he crosses the Oak Spring Winery's performance stage regularly.

From the online realm…As reported last month, a multitude of Pittsburgh area musicians converged to record a special song, "SOS2020," to raise funds for the National Independent Venue Association's Emergency Fund to help out Save Our Stages and preserve independent live music venues in the Pittsburgh area. Furthering that effort was the SOS PGH Concert Series, a series of online concerts which happened over four successive Thursdays in January and February. I caught the first and last concerts of that series; the first, on January 28, featured the bands Middle Finger, The Cheats and Royal Honey. Four members strong, Middle Finger launched the music with a four-song set of bristling, high-octane punk rock. The Cheats followed with their scathing brand of sleaze-edged punk rock, doing some of their original numbers such as "It's Alright," "Got Lucky," "Hammersmith Palais," "Pittsburgh Cockfight" and more. Royal Honey finished this show with their hard-driving, original rock'n'roll. Featuring drummer Eric Rodger, who wrote the song "SOS2020," Royal Honey played grooving

continued on next page

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and swaggering rock, including such songs as "Dirty Romance," "The Noose," "American Jive" and more. During the first series finale on February 18, Pittsburgh's Murder for Girls opened with their mix of indie, punk and garage rock sounds. Guitarists and singers Stephanie and Tammy Wallace, drummer and singer Michele Dunlap and bassist Jonathan Bagamery did driving, fuzzy, melody-based original songs, including a few from their latest album, "Done in the Dark." Five members strong, Stone Cold Killer continued with their set of catchy, guitar-driven hard rock, before The Legendary Hucklebucks stormed the series home with their scorching brand of rock and rockabilly. Singer Ted Bundy unleashed his fire-and-brimstone vigor and vinegar as he howled out Hucklebucks anthems such as "Honky Tonk Angel," "Don't Feed the Rats," "Chop Top Bop," the "Ballad of Johnny Devil," "B-Movie" and more. A second four-week concert series, with artists to be announced, will begin on April 8. For more information, visit the website www.sos2020pgh.org.

Also on Thursday nights, The Palace Theatre in Greensburg has started their online Virtually In the Palace (VIP) Experience concert series on Facebook, which runs through this month. I checked in to see Habatat's performance last month, and was pleasantly surprised at the group's current musical direction. Singer and guitarist Ryan Woods, guitarist and trumpeter Josh Covert, bassist Kris Lupher, drummer Justin Banks, and the brass section of Mere Kae Powells on trombone and trumpet, Tom Buchko on trombone and Neal Skacel have expanded their realm beyond blues and jam-based rock to include elements jazz and funk flavors. Habatat demonstrated their expansive sound over two sets, doing original numbers such as "City Minute," instrumentals "Jebediah" and "Counterfeit," the reggae-toned "Turnaround," "Supernova Overdrive," "Disillusions," "Gold" and more. Ryan sang with a commanding soulful growl, and the group's instrumental talents shined throughout the performance. In between sets, concert emcee Adam Seifert of the Westmoreland Cultural Trust conducted a question-and-answer segment with the band to learn their story and explore their musical career.

Washington, D.C. blues legends The Nighthawks celebrated their 49th year as a band during a January performance that live-streamed via "Can't Stop the Blues," a virtual blues venue that for the past year has presented performances from various blues artists most Thursdays through Sundays on Facebook. The Nighthawks – founding member, singer and harmonica man Mark Wenner, drummer and singer Mark Stutso, guitarist and singer Dan Hovey and bassist Paul Pisciotta – played numerous original songs plus a variety of blues-flavored favorites, resulting in a fun display of moving, grooving blues. Some of their original tunes included "Back to the City," "Damn Good Time," "Guard My Heart" and a few others. Dan fronted the group on "The Cheap Stuff," a song that he wrote while with his previous band, GHz (Gigahertz); and Mark Stutso sang two songs he co-wrote with Pittsburgh's Norman Nardini, "Three Times Your Fool" and "Heartbreak Shake." The Nighthawks also offered their own flavor on versions of Jimmy Rogers' "Walking By Myself," The Temptations' "I Can't Get Next to You," Levon Helm's "When I Go Away," Chuck Berry's "Sweet Little Sixteen," Buddy Johnson's "A Pretty Girl, A Cadillac and Some Money" and more. All four of these guys can carry a tune, and each excelled on their instruments – Mark Wenner is still a master on the harmonica, Mark Stutso powered the groove with his beats, Dan displayed excellent guitar work, and Paul knew how to work his four strings to help drive the songs forward. The Nighthawks had me grooving in my chair, and it was enjoyable to watch them do their thing. On the down side, "Can't Stop the Blues" announced days after this performance that they will be discontinuing their virtual concerts later this month.

John "JT" Thompson does virtual live-streaming performances on Facebook from his "Phydeau's Place" abode in Bellefonte every Sunday afternoon. As snow fell on January 31, John presented a "Snow Day Blues" performance, tickling the ivories and singing his blend of original songs, classic rock, blues, boogie-woogie and jazz. John did established and newer originals; including "Why Can't You Be True," "Just Over That Wall," "Dance Little Sister Dance," "Down at Daniel's" and the title song from his 2012 CD "This Way That Way"; and newer numbers such as "Boomers Lament," "The Beach Song," "Wipe Away Your Tears," "Breakfast in the Morning Sun" and a song written by his wife, "Sweet n'Lo Mama." Some of John's covers this day included his unique takes on Marc Cohn's "Walking in Memphis," Bob Seger's "Sunspot Baby," Avery Parrish's jazz standard "After Hours," Amos Milburn's "Bad Bad Whiskey" and others. John's bright performance and jovial mood kept the presentation fun, and cameo barks from his dog lent to the happy mood as well.

Longtime Bedford musician Chad Patterson presents weekly live stream performances on Facebook every Tuesday evening. During his first Tuesday performance last month, Chad celebrated classic hits of the 1960s and 70s during his one-hour set, strumming and singing tunes from the Eagles, CCR, Van Morrison, the Beatles, Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show, Simon & Garfunkel, CSNY, Badfinger, Neil Young and more. He broke out a few you don't often hear performed on local stages, such as Donovan's "Mellow Yellow," Percy Sledge's "When A Man Loves A Woman," Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street" and his acoustic arrangement of Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog." Chad sounded good on all of it, giving a steady and relaxed presentation that kept the online audience happy. Catch Chad's weekly live stream Tuesday evenings starting at 7 p.m.

I also caught portions of live stream performances in recent weeks from Johnstown's Dave Distefano, Washington, D.C.'s "Queen of the Blues" Stacy Brooks via the Blues Society of Central PA's weekly Thursday virtual jam, and North Carolina bluesmen Jon Shain and F.J. Ventre via the "Can't Stop the Blues" virtual venue.

On a sad note, the Pittsburgh music scene lost a popular performer, as singer and bandleader Jimmy Sapienza passed away February 6 after a battle with kidney disease at age 71. Jimmy was well known throughout western PA for fronting his long-running group Jimmy Sapienza and Five Guys Named Moe, who played classic hits and standards from the swing music era, including tunes from Louis Jordan, Louis Prima, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Louis Armstrong, plus his own original tunes as well. He and his band performed during such events as the Italian Food Festival at Delgrosso's Amusement Park in Tipton and Flood City Music Festival in Johnstown. Jimmy also donated his talents to the community, and was a part of The Sonny Pugar Memorial's "Music Smiles" program, which brings music to patients in hospitals and other facilities…And the Altoona area music scene

Jimmy Sapienza

Paul Dixon

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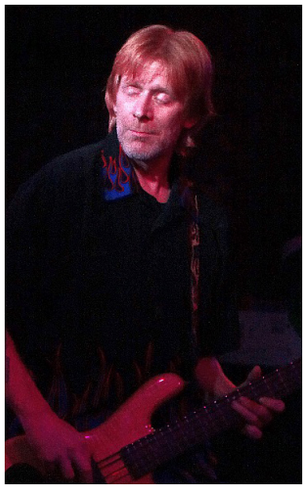
mourned the passing of musician Paul Dixon on February 10 following a 5-year battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He was 60. A Dubois native, Paul played guitar with a number of bands over the years, most recently with the Altoona-based bands Inside Out and Kicked In. We at the "Homegrown Rocker" send our sincere sympathies out to the families and friends of both men.

News and notes… The Clearfield County Fair has announced Jackyl, the The Kentucky Headhunters, comedian Larry the Cable Guy and country performer Russell Dickerson as grandstand performers when the annual fair returns August 2-7…A special multi-night online benefit event is being organized to help save popular Pittsburgh area blues music venue Moondogs in Blawnox. The "Save Moondogs – Virtual Event Fundraiser" will feature performances from both local and national blues performers who have performed at Moondogs over its 30-year history; more details about the virtual event will be announced shortly…In a surprise announcement, popular Altoona-based rock band Faded Flowers disbanded after a nearly one-and-a-half-year run on local stages, citing musical differences…Two members of Faded Flowers, singer and guitarist Michael Wertz and bassist and singer Hunter Karns, have formed The Jaded Lips, which unveiled their first song and video last month, called "Where Do We Run"…Guitarist and singer Wynton Huddle has parted ways with Lancaster psychedelic modern rockers Medusa's Disco to further his solo career, and is relocating to Nashville…Ted McCloskey has released his third album of songs inspired by the COVID pandemic and the tumultuous past year; the new album, "The Lost Season Sessions Vol. 3 – Waiting for the Cavalry," was issued via Ted's Bandcamp page…Altoona's Railroad City Murder Machines

Johnny Dressler



Redawg Solinski

have released their second album; entitled "Goodbye Songs," it is currently available digitally through online platforms, and the hard copy CD will be available later this month…and Warren-based heavy metal rockers Afraid Of Human have announced they are set to enter the recording studio to record their second album.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC! And keep WASHING YOUR HANDS and WEAR THOSE MASKS!

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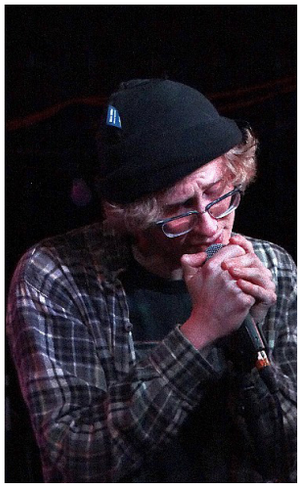

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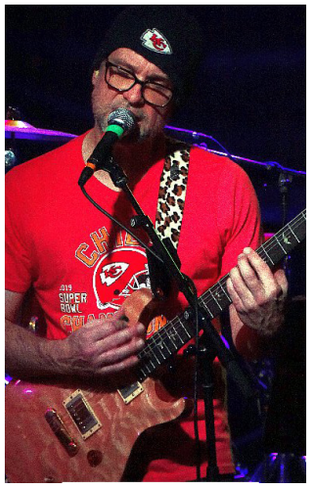

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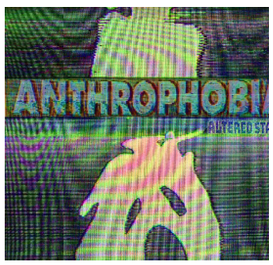
PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

ANTHROPHOBIA – ALTERED STATES/GRIND EP's (Code 3 Records) History lesson: Anthrophobia first surfaced on Reading area punk stages in 1985, and evolved into a do-it-yourself touring force in the 1990s with their hard-hitting meld of metal, punk, grunge and rock. They achieved national notoriety after signing and issuing recordings with BMG/EMI subsidiary Mausoleum Records, plus gaining a spot on the 1998 Vans Warped Tour. The group stepped away from it all in 2007, but returned to action in 2015. Their latest recordings – the six-song EP Altered States and the five-song Grind (both released together as a full album on vinyl and download) – show that Anthrophobia has returned with a vengeance. Remaining founding member, snarler and chief lyricist Frank Phobia, guitarist Brent Black, bassist Rob DiJoseph and drummer Dickie Delp deliver go-for-broke, aggressive and visceral rock. The newest of the recordings, Altered States, detonates with the rampaging "Cliff Notes," with Anthrophobia's firepower on full display – Frank's full-frontal vocal howl, Rob's raw and throbbing bass, Dickie's driving drums and Brent's roaring guitar. The group delivers bristling punk and thrash-like velocity on the speed burners "Ghosts" and "Running Out of Time," and brings forceful thunder on "Technical Difficulties," the tension-and-release assault "Mute" and the cynical and socially-charged "Take One for the Team." The Grind EP portion of the set launches with the volatile title track, and also features the introspective rampage "Nerve Endings," the cellphone addiction rant "Over Reaction," the classic rock-toned "Ancient History" with its Jimi Hendrix "Third Stone from the Sun" nod, and Anthrophobia's lengthiest recorded number, the darker 7-minute-plus epic "Before the Crash." Included with the download version of the album are four previously-unreleased bonus tracks – including the fast-firing theme song Anthrophobia created for Amazon Prime's animated series "Fundamentally Cynical," the swaggering rocker "Dropping Like Flies," and updates of the group's 1988 number "Cracks in the Ceiling" and 1994 vinyl single burner "Glue." Anthrophobia displays no-holds-barred intensity throughout all of these numbers – Frank barks and howls his words with drill sergeant-like, in-your-face authority; and the group unleashes full fury and attitude. Both EP's were recorded and mixed at Magpie Cage Recording Studio in Baltimore, and engineered and produced by J.Robbins (who has worked with Jawbox, Clutch, Local H, Against Me! and more); the sound is clear, edgy and powerful. Anthrophobia leaves no doubt that they are back in the game with the Altered States/Grind EP's set, unleashing quality sonic mayhem that is made to be cranked loud. (The CD recording can be obtained through the website www.anthrophobia.com; the full package of EP's and bonus tracks can be downloaded through the group's Bandcamp page.)



JOHN HAHN – UNDISCOVERED WORLD (no label) 1980s Harpo alumnus and guitar adventurer John Hahn continues to explore hard-rocking musical frontiers on his latest solo offering, Undiscovered World. Through the album's 11 instrumental tracks, John takes listeners on a journey through progressive-leaning, hard-hitting terrain, assisted by Carl Canedy (The Rods) on drums. He ups the ante here, as each composition inspires and sets up the next on the album, making for a cohesive, comprehensive listening experience. Fans of guitar shredding and virtuosity will find plenty to celebrate here, but John's detailed, intricate and varied arrangements should also satisfy fans of Dream Theater or Rush. The opening salvo, "Fuel Injection," comes out the gate firing fast on all cylinders, jolting the listener to attention to commence the adventure. With a foundational intro passage slightly reminiscent of Ozzy Osbourne's "Diary of a Madman," "Heaven's Fury" plots its own darker-toned direction, touching base with the initial passage to separate sections of John's guitar explorations. Created in memory of his parents, John's "Remembering You" starts off delicate in tone, but progresses into a celebratory, uplifting vibe. Consistent with its title, the determined assault "Thrill of the Chase" charges forward with dramatic twists and turns, with John's guitar displays guiding the pursuit. The album features two lengthier chapters; the ethereal and nuanced "After the Chase" leads into the 8-minute "Epic Journey," featuring Dream Theater-like soundscapes and backdrops for John to continue his guitar adventures. The multi-tiered 8-minute "Air" provides closure to the journey with its dramatic and fast-shifting currents, trailing off to its cosmic finish. John provides technical prowess throughout the album, delivering fast and fluid execution on the guitar strings, mastery in running scales, and evoking mood and feeling in his delivery. The album stays compelling throughout with its variations in chords, tempos and intensities. Produced by John, the album sounds crisp, vibrant, balanced and powerful. Undiscovered World shows John Hahn continuing to explore and expand his hard-rocking musical landscapes, as well as advancing his artistry and creativity. (The album can be obtained through John's website, www.johnhahn.com.)

MALEENA – BRUISES TO PROVE IT (no label) Maleena is bassist and a singer with Pittsburgh-based rock band Chip & the Charge Ups, as well as the teenage daughter and bandmate of that group's namesake and founding member, Chip Dominick. At age 18, Maleena has issued her first solo album, Bruises to Prove It. Through the album's six songs, Maleena channels the emotions and experiences during her teenage years through a variety of musical flavors, spanning gentle acoustic-geared pop and folk to alternative to punk-edged rock. The lead-off song, "I Can't Find You," is about searching for direction and purpose. The song was recorded during Real Life Music Camp, a program for young musicians operated by Rusted Root's Liz Berlin, who contributes backing vocals on the song. Showing a harder rock direction consistent with her father's band is "On the Run," where Maleena sings of seeking her own individuality and identity. The acoustic-geared "Homesick" looks for stability and grounding, while the alt-pop-toned "Something More" expresses youthful yearning. Maleena grapples with heartbreak and embracing pleasant moments on "Flashbacks," and her heart seeks a home on the gentle album-finisher "Rest of My Life." This is an honest album, as Maleena shares her feelings and vulnerability with a steady and sincere voice. Maleena also plays acoustic guitar here, with father Chip contributing additional guitar and Ed Gourley playing drums on several songs. The album's overall sound is clean, full and balanced, with Maleena's voice front and center in the mix. Named after the 'bruises' of hard work it took to achieve the goal of Maleena's first album, Bruises to Prove It is a solid first effort, and provides an insightful musical snapshot of a young artist establishing her own identity. (The recording can be obtained and accessed through iTunes and other online music platforms.)

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WANTED: Reliable Drummer needed for classic, modern rock band. Must have transportation, gear, friendly but serious atmosphere. Practice few times monthly. Reading, Berks County area. Call: 610-607-3516

Musician wanted: Guitarist looking to play with another guitarist to gain your undivided attention to play at the same level then add other musicians as needed. call 717-303-4211.

WANTED MUSICIANS: guitarist and drummer wanting to collaborate with solid bass player and solid rhythm guitar player, to put together music 70's-80's stuff. Rehearsal spot nice 717-303-4211

Seeking guitarist: Heavy metal drummer age 33 seeking a guitarist to play covers but not limited to, Iron Maiden, Saxon, Riot, Yngvie Malsteen, Savatage, Armored Saint basically early thrash! Text 717-422-7650.* NO DRAMA * Harrisburg Area.

WANTED: Dead Bird Pie, an original punk rock n' roll band, is auditioning lead guitarists and bass players. Email deadbirdpie@gmail.com for more info.

WANTED: DRUMMER for variety band based in Carlisle & Duncannon. Prefer age 50+. NO drug, alcohol or ego issues. MUST HAVE reliable transportation. 717-919-1278.

WANTED: Solo Country Artist seeking guitarist, bassist, drummer, and vocalist to play and write some great country music. Interested? Hit me up at michaelmckenziemusic@yahoo.com or 717-816-9156.

WANTED: New project looking for bass player and a singer. We wanna play some covers and a few originals mixed in. Rock/Metal. Seasoned musicians. Flexible time slots. Pro gear required. Call Dave 717-525-0014

WANTED: Musician: Vocalist needed for a hard rock/hair metal cover band, that also writes originals. yeldarbsperk@yahoo.com or 570-412-7614

WANTED: Drummer needed for experienced top 40 cover dance band with active 2020 schedule. Call or text for more information, 717-880-0101.

WANTED: Co-writer. Aspiring lyricist seeking a musician to write songs with. If interested please email mikeefacc@gmail.com.

WANTED: BASS PLAYER: John Entwistle impersonator bassist wanted for National touring & gigging who tribute band must be able to look and play like John Entwistle call or text France 310-798-8294

WANTED: Musicians. York area bassist and drummer seeking guitars, keys, and vocals for a powerhouse lineup. Danceable and fun rock. Email: Drummerboy922@yahoo.com or call: 717-424-4451

MUSICIANS AVAILABLE:

AVAILABLE: Drummer age 33, looking for a reliable lead guitarist. Looking to play material related to Queensryche, Fates Warning, Armored Saint. Have Space, no drama. Text 717-422-7650

AVAILABLE: Experienced Bassist looking to join or start new band. into multiple styles of music call: Roby at 717-668-1524

AVAILABLE DRUMMER: State College Area. Top Gear and Chops, All Styles. Can Travel. Long Term, Backfill gigs, Short notices Ok. Not Greedy. Jon at 814-810-7686.

AVAILABLE: Mature guitar player exp. into Classic Rock/Blues/Oldies- Beatles- Stones-Petty-Aerosmith-Skynerd-AC/DC etc. Looking for working/near working band, Trio/Duo's etc. Backing/Vocals. Reliable and Ex. equipment. Last 15 plus years with the "Close Call" Band.York-Lanc-Harrisburg. e-mail jonkri@comcast.net or 717-246-3453

AVAILABLE: talented Bass player with strong vocals and harmonies. Looking for or to form 80's hair metal band; Ozzy, Van Halen. 40 Years ex-

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AVAILABLE MUSICIAN: Harrisburg area bassist. Into metal and rock. Flexible. Has own transportation. email: mjd6969271219@gmail.com

AVAILABLE: Guitar or bass player looking for band. 35+years of experience. Play many types of music. Call Mark 717- 421-5282.

AVAILABLE Vocalist looking to start cover band. Influences from 80's-90's rock through today's hits. Bloomsburg area Call or text 570-764-0105.

AVAILABLE: Singer looking to help out a band that needs a strong vocalist. Love rock, blues, southern rock. Lots of stage time and experience Please call: 717-422-0157

AVAILABLE: 47 year old, seasoned, (Old School) Thrash, Hard Rock, metal drummer looking for other like minded, serious musicians. Joining an established project preferred but will consider all offers. Covers or originals, just wanna play with high end musicians. If this is you we can talk. I live in Enola and prefer to stay within reasonable driving distance. divinemizery@gmail.com

Email your free classified to Joshnoll@pamusician.net.

REMEMBERING WHITEY NOLL By Jim Price

In the days following his passing on January 29, I have been doing a lot of reflection on Whitey Noll – the founder of Pennsylvania Musician Magazine – his friendship and his impact on my life. Considering I just turned 60 in October and started writing for PA Musician when I was 26, Whitey and PA Musician have been a part of my world for more than half my life!

I started writing for PA Musician a couple of years before I actually first met Whitey in person. In the mid-1980s I had been managing and trying to book shows for the Altoona-based hard rock band Tommi-Gunn. I was also just starting to discover the Altoona area music scene, and was already writing and presenting show and album reviews about the scene on WFBG-AM's "All Night Album Rock" program. While browsing at a local record store one evening, I noticed this new magazine called "Pennsylvania Musician" that showed up in the store's magazine section and picked up a copy. I was instantly fascinated by its coverage of local music scenes from across the state, and as I was seeking new venues to book Tommi-Gunn shows, my eyes bulged as I saw ads for exciting-looking rock rooms like The Metron in Harrisburg, Swizzle's in York, Chameleon Club in Lancaster, Paradise Night Spot in Mechanicsburg and many more. I started advertising Tommi-Gunn in PA Musician, and after several months, the idea popped into my head that – since Altoona didn't yet have a column in the magazine – maybe I could start writing an Altoona column for the publication. I went ahead and sent a sample article and in June, 1987 that first article appeared in PA Musician.

When I started writing for them, I learned that I would also be delivering the magazines as well. Since the beginning, I have driven to State College each month to pick up the magazines for delivery. At first, I obtained the magazines through the State College writer at that time, Athena Rhodes. Several months in, Athena passed the torch on to another writer, who after a few months also passed the torch to yet another writer. Eventually, when no new writers stepped up to take over the State College column, I "adopted" State College into my column and coverage area. And with no State College writers to pass the new magazine bundles along to me, Whitey started to bring the magazines to State College himself, which is how I first met him.

We first met in a parking lot across Atherton Street from The Autoport. Our first few meetings were pretty business-like, we would transfer the magazines over to my car, and then both head off on our merry ways. But as we became better acquainted, these meetings became more special. Whitey started to bring his ukuleles and harmonica along, and after I loaded magazines, he would invite me to sit with him in his car while he played his new song creations for me. He would share his wisdom about life and about being a musician. And he started bringing cassettes along, which contained the rough demo versions of songs that would eventually appear on his 2001 CD with Joe Agoglia, "Between the Curtains and the Clouds." I became a sort of "sounding board" for Whitey to get an outside perspective on his songs.

After Whitey started having his initial heart issues, Robin took over bringing the magazines to me. But by this point, I was participating in magazine-sponsored events and other special music events in the Harrisburg region, including being part of the PA Musician team at the annual Millennium Music Conference (MMC). Whitey often showed up at MMC for a number of years, bringing his ukulele along and sometimes playing at the conference's open acoustic stage at the trade show. And when I attended events in the Harrisburg area, I started to stay overnight at the "PA Musician Bed & Breakfast," Whitey and Robin's farmhouse abode near Millerstown. These overnight stays became special times with Whitey as well, as Robin would cook up breakfast for both of us the following morning, and we would then sit at the kitchen table and talk, strum ukuleles (Whitey even gave me a few uke lessons!), and as I started doing pen sketches, even showing our artwork to each other. (One of my favorite art creations of Whitey's was a fleet of small wood-carved boats and ships, that sat on the living room window sill.) I learned a lot of wisdom and history from Whitey during those breakfast sessions, and had a lot of fun as well. (Including the snake adventure, when Whitey spotted a large black rat snake in the yard while we were eating breakfast, and we went outside for a closer look. That led to a classic showdown between the snake and an overly-curious feral barn cat.

As I reflect on Whitey, I am thankful for his friendship and the impact he and his magazine creation have had on my life. They were game-changers for me. Because of PA Musician, writing about and promoting the local music scene, plus playing local music on the radio became central arcs in my life. It's the main reason I'm still on the radio after all these years. I met many longtime friends along the way because of this magazine. And some of those friendships I have made through my involvement with PA Musician even directly or indirectly led to job openings for me; even my current teaching position at Penn State Altoona! And Whitey's wisdom and perspectives on life live on with me, and have even influenced my own perspectives and attitudes toward life. I learned a lot from him. Years after he brought along his ukulele on those delivery trips to State College, I now play a ukulele (and like Whitey, have accumulated a collection of them as well). And after writing about local musicians for a number of years, I eventually "crossed over to the dark side" and became one myself! Another pleasant memory of Whitey was when my band, the Backyard Rockers, performed in front of him during a PA Musician picnic event a few years ago. He had kind words for us that day, and that meant a lot to us!

In her story about Whitey in the February issue of PA Musician dedicated in Whitey's memory, Robin mentioned that Whitey was just 6 years old when his father passed away. This revealed another connecting point between us, as my father passed away when I was 7 (as I have been told, he had his fatal heart attack while he was browsing in a record store). So we both came from a similar life situation in that regard, and perhaps is another reason why Whitey's wisdom and perspective has resonated with me through the years.

Anyway, I will always be thankful for Whitey entering and impacting my life. I'll think of him when I pick up that ukulele, watch musicians pour their hearts and creativity out on live stages, And through my continued work with PA Musician and on the air with my "Homegrown Rocker" program, I will help continue his legacy. Thank you Whitey for being a part of my world, and for being you!

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